

Appl. No. 10/042,748
Amdt. dated August 11, 2003
Reply to Office action of May 9, 2003

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended): An endless track for a vehicle, the track having an endless body made of a reinforced rubber material with longitudinally spaced and transversely disposed stiffeners embedded in the rubber material, the body defining a central band portion and opposite lateral band portions that are located on the sides each side of the central band portion, the central band portion being delimited from the two lateral band portions by two corresponding suspension bearing portions, each defining a plurality of clipping sites [[that]] separated from each other by holes through said body, said clipping sites are adapted to receive a metallic clip, [[the]] said track being characterized in that ~~the~~ further comprising:

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clips [[that]] which are mounted on some clipping sites and in an arrangement of mixed which defines a clip sequences on each suspension bearing portion, each clip sequence comprising one or more successive [[clips]] clipping sites with a clip mounted thereon immediately followed by one or two successive clipping sites without a clip,

whereby-wherein [[the]] each consecutive clip sequence arrangement of mixed clip sequences along said suspension bearing portions being different from each of its immediate neighbors lowers the overall noise level generated by the track while rotating.

Claim 2 (currently amended): An endless track according to claim 1, characterized in that each clip sequence comprises between one and eight successive clipping sites with clips immediately followed by one or two successive clipping sites without a clip.

Claim 3 (currently amended): An endless track according to claim 1, characterized in that each clip sequence comprises between one and six successive clipping sites with clips immediately followed by one or two successive clipping sites without a clip.

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Claim 4 (currently amended): An endless track according to claim 1, characterized in that the clips comprise L-shaped clips and flat clips, one L-shaped clip being at least provided at any four successive clipping sites with or without clips.

Claim 5 (currently amended): An arrangement of clips for a track having a plurality of clipping sites disposed in two parallel rows, the arrangement being characterized in that it comprises mixed clip sequences on each row of clipping sites so as to lower the overall noise level generated by the track while rotating, each clip sequence comprising one or more successive clipping sites with clips and one or two successive clipping sites without a clip.

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Claim 6 (currently amended): An arrangement according to claim 5, characterized in that each clip sequence comprises between one and eight successive clipping sites with clips immediately followed by one or two successive clipping sites without a clip.

Claim 7 (currently amended): An arrangement according to claim 5, characterized in that each clip sequence comprises between one and six successive clipping sites with clips immediately followed by one or two successive clipping sites without a clip.

Claim 8 (currently amended): An arrangement according to claim 5, characterized in that the arrangement comprises L-shaped clips and flat clips, one L-shaped clip being at least provided at any four successive clipping sites with or without clips.

Claim 9 (currently amended): A method of mounting clips on a track having a plurality of clipping sites disposed in two parallel rows, the method being characterized in that it comprises the steps of:

determining an arrangement of mixed clip sequences for each row of clipping sites so as to lower the overall noise level generated by the track while rotating, each successive clip sequence comprising one or more successive clips and one or two successive clipping sites without a clip being different from each of its immediate neighbors; and

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mounting the clips at designated clipping sites.

Claim 10 (currently amended): A method according to claim 9, characterized in that each clip sequence comprises between one and eight successive clipping sites with clips immediately followed by one or two successive clipping sites without a clip.

Claim 11 (currently amended): A method according to claim 9, characterized in that each clip sequence comprises between one and six successive clipping sites with clips immediately followed by one or two successive clipping sites without a clip.

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Claim 12 (currently amended): A method according to claim 9, characterized in that the arrangement comprises L-shaped clips and flat clips, one L-shaped clip being at least provided at any four successive clipping sites with or without a clip.

Claim 13 (original): A track manufactured in accordance of the method as set fourth in claim 9.